

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 IO-04 ISO-00 EB-04 SWF-01 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 FRB-01 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-01 SP-02

STR-01 TRSE-00 LAB-01 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 /039 W

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R 181718Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4897

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. AA652: N/A

TAGS: EIND, ETRD, EEC, UK

SUBJECT: EC PROGRAM TO HARMONIZE INDUSTRIAL STANDARDS

REF: STATE A-6648

1. IN A CONVERSATION ON OCTOBER 17, CYRIL SILVER
(ASSISTANT SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF TRADE) DESCRIBED
THE UK'S GENERAL APPROACH TO THE EC PROGRAM OF
STANDARDS HARMONIZATION.

2. DESPITE THE LABOR GOVERNMENT'S WARINESS OF
INTERFERENCE FROM BRUSSELS, THE UK CONTINUES TO FAVOR
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EC PROGRAM, WHICH IT SEES AS A
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STEP TOWARD THE FURTHER LIBERALIZATION OF TRADE.

SIMILARLY, THE UK IS INTERESTED IN HARMONIZING STANDARDS ON A WORLDWIDE BASIS AS A WAY OF REMOVING BARRIERS BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY AND THE REST OF THE WORLD.

3. SILVER RAISED TWO QUALIFICATIONS TO THE UK'S ENTHUSIASM. FIRST, HE SAID, CONSUMER INTERESTS ARE INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT, AND THEY CAN VARY WIDELY FROM ONE COUNTRY TO THE NEXT. BRITISH ATTITUDES ON THE APPROPRIATE LEAD CONTENT OF GASOLINE, FOR EXAMPLE, DO NOT CONFORM TO GERMAN VIEWS. SECOND, NATIONAL STANDARDS ON CERTAIN VERY EXPENSIVE ITEMS OF INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT - FOR EXAMPLE, TELECOMMUNICATIONS OR ELECTRICAL GENERATING EQUIPMENT - CAN BE SIGNIFICANT BARRIERS TO TRADE. ABRUPT CHANGES IN THESE STANDARDS CAN CAUSE MAJOR PROBLEMS FOR USERS AND TRADITIONAL SUPPLIERS, IN VIEW OF THE CAPITAL INVESTMENT THAT IS INVOLVED. WHILE STANDARDS ON SUCH ITEMS SHOULD BE HARMONIZED, THIS HAS TO BE DONE SLOWLY.

ANNENBERG

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: STANDARDS, INDUSTRY, TRADE LIBERALIZATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LONDON13600
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740297-1023
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741036/aaaabekc.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION COME
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE A-6648
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <01 AUG 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EC PROGRAM TO HARMONIZE INDUSTRIAL STANDARDS
TAGS: EIND, ETRD, UK, EEC, (SILVER, CYRIL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005